



# Debris Management Assistance



Debris removal is eligible under most types of emergency declarations. Below is a table showing the circumstances and the associated cost-share amount for local governments when debris management funding is available.

|   | Cal OES Agency Secretary's Concurrence/Local Proclamation | Governor's Proclamation/State of Emergency | Presidential Emergency Declaration      | Presidential Major Disaster Declaration |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Debris Removal Eligible                   | No  | Yes  | Yes (if Cat. A included in Declaration) | Yes                                     |
| Local Cost Share                          | N/A   | Yes - 25%                                  | Yes - 6.25%                             | Yes - 6.25%                             |
| Debris Management Plan Required for Event | N/A   | Yes  | Yes                                     | Yes                                     |
| Direct Federal Assistance                 | N/A   | No   | Yes                                     | Yes                                     |

Remember the following information when seeking debris management assistance:

Debris removal shall be considered necessary when removal will:

- Eliminate immediate threats to life, public health, and safety;
- Eliminate immediate threats of significant damage to improved public or private property; or,
- Be necessary for the permanent repair, restoration, or reconstruction of damaged public facilities.

Debris Removal from Public Right-of-Way

- Local government must create a debris management plan for the disaster.
- Disaster debris removed from the public right-of-way or from bins placed in the public right-of-way is, for the most part, eligible whether funded by the State or FEMA.
- Debris must be disaster related and is generally separated by type.
- Monitors are needed for this process to ensure the public is complying and that there is no illegal dumping.



## Debris Removal from Private Property

- To be eligible for funding, local government must have State and FEMA approval for a private property debris removal program before removing the debris.
- Local government must demonstrate an immediate threat to the public health and safety from the debris.
- Local official must state that removal of debris from private property is necessary to remove and/or reduce the immediate threat to the public health and safety.
- Local government must create a private property debris management plan for the disaster.
- Local government must monitor debris removal operations.
- Local government must pursue insurance recovery from property owners.
- Local governments must ensure that property owners that do not participate in private property debris removal operations remove debris from private property in a timely manner.

# Debris Removal



## Debris Types

Debris removal is the clearance, removal and/or disposal of debris following a disaster. The resulting debris may be comprised of one or more of the following types:

Construction &  
Demolition materials  
Sediments  
Vegetative debris  
Metals -  
(awnings, etc.)  
Animal Carcasses

Electronic debris -  
(computers, TVs, etc.)  
Sandbags  
White Metals -  
(washer, refrigerators, etc.)  
Personal Property  
Hazardous Household Waste



### Ineligible Debris



- Debris that does not pose a threat
- Vehicles (i.e. cars, boats, RVs, etc.)
- Foundations (may be eligible under CDAA)
- Swimming pools
- Old tires, batteries or equipment



### DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

- A good debris management plan can save time and money.
- A debris management plan will address both short term and long term goals and actions.
- A debris management plan is essential for a quick and effective response to and preparation for debris from the next major disaster.
- Local emergency plans should be coordinated with solid waste planning to include debris management strategies, reuse and recycling opportunities, quantity estimations, landfill capacities, landfill class/type and potential temporary storage sites.
- The debris plan must be approved by the implementing agencies and departments, and adopted according to city/county requirements
- Remember, a good debris plan will result in more efficient use of limited resources, timely access to critical infrastructure and environmentally safe solutions to debris issues.



### Additional Resources

- [CalEMA Concept of Operations](#)
- [Debris Removal Flyer](#)
- [Private Property Debris Removal](#)
- [Debris Contracting Flyer](#)
- [Debris Estimating Flyer](#)
- [Debris Forecasting Flyer](#)
- [Debris Management Plan Flyer](#)
- [Debris Training Flyer](#)
- [CalEMA Debris Training Manual](#)

### Web Sites

- [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)
- [www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



### Want more information on debris management?

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**Regulations:** *Title 19, Section 2900*  
*44 CFR, Section 206.224.*  
*Stafford Act, Sections 403 & 407*

July 2013 (Rev.)